Lanka have been withdrawn. The present strength of the IPKF in Sri Lanka is approxximately 50,000.

Formation of National network "ACTIONS" contract ill effects of tobacco

2109. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national network called 'ACTION' has been formed to contract the ill effects and health hazards of tobacco and, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government propose to support the voluntary work of 'ACTION' and its network spread over the country, financially and otherwise, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The Government are aware through press reports that the Voluntary Health Association of India has proposed to form a national network called 'Action to Combat Tobacco Indian Organisations Network (ACTION)'. However, this Ministry have not received any formal proposal from the 'ACTION' for any help.

Overtime Allowance to Employees of P&AO, Secunderabad

2110. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of employees in the Pay and Accounts Offices at Secunderabad under Controller General of Defence Accounts are being put on overtime duty for many months/days every year;

(b) if so, how many such employees, and of what grades are being put on overtime duties;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission with reference to discontinuance of overtime duties have not been applied in the above organisation so far; if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to employ more staff under the concerned P&AOs and dispense with such overtime duties; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether Government propose to introduce emputrization in the above department to simplify working and accounts procedures to save manpower; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) 20 Section Officers (Accounts); 451 Auditors/Clerks & 4 Group 'D' employees working in the Pay & Accounts Offices at Secunderabad have been employed on overtime duty for a fortnight in each quarter during the last three years.

(c) Detailing staff of Pay and Accounts Offices on overtime duty has been recessitated due to the gradual increase in the number of Individual Running Ledger Accounts which have to be processed to complete time bound activities such as closing of quarterly accounts, issue of statement of accounts to Jawans, final settlement of cases and issue of Last Pay Certificate cum data sheets for sanction of Pensions.

(d) The modalites for implementing the Fourth Pay Commission's recommendations regarding overtime allowance in Government Offices are in the process of finalisation by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.